

CALIFORNIA GARDEN



...In This Number...

Runway Gardens By Florence C. Arsenault

Under My Seven Eucalyptus Trees . . . By Ruth R. Nelson

New Zealand's Christmas Trees By K. O. Sessions

DECEMBER 1932

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One Page \$15.00

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Eighth Page 2.00

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SHOPPING NEWS PRINTING CO., Ltd.

215 B Street

F. 7651

San Diego, Calif.

The California Garden

*Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association
One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy*

Vol. 24

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER, 1932

No. 6

RUNWAY GARDENS

By FLORENCE C. ARSENAULT

"Garden" as applied to runways means any treatment of runway and garage that includes tree, shrub, vine or plant, or any combination of them.

There are few cases where the runway may not be developed into a garden. Of course, when the garage is incorporated into the house the runway is part of the general scheme of the garden and does not need special treatment, but aside from that, every runway, either a few feet long, the entire depth of the lot, or any length in between offers scope for garden treatment. When a garage opens almost directly on the sidewalk, many people seem to feel that nothing need be done about it, but even then, if there is soil on any of the four sides of the garage, there can be a vine, a shrub or a tree to soften the lines of the building.

In the case of very short runways, some of the most attractive garden arrangements can be created. A blossoming vine on the garage, a slender tree or dwarf shrub at each side of the entrance, grass between the tracks, may work magic in producing beauty where ugliness existed before.

A new house recently seen has a Cup of Gold growing over the white stucco garage, with a palm backing it, and a tiny group of flowers and greenery at a front corner. Already it is charming, but the Cup of Gold in spring will be a mass of golden glory, blending with the yellow flowers at the foot, and it, with its perennially rich green foliage, and the palm, will increase in size and beauty with the years. And yet this all-cement runway is barely two feet deep!

Another entrance, scarcely longer, shows a patch of grass between the cement tracks, small plants at each side growing among rocks, and a vine drooping above the door of the garage. This is of light brown stucco and the rocks

of the red brown kind that are so decorative in themselves, so that the whole arrangement, small though it be, is a delight to the eye.

Still another, with the garage perhaps a dozen feet from the sidewalk, has the lawn at the side of the all-cement runway, and at the sidewalk line two gateposts, each with a pottery urn atop holding cactus in bloom, and cactus growing outside the wall. Wooden gates stand invitingly open.

When so much charm can be had from the short runway, it seems a pity to treat it like a stepchild. Frequently a place which is well kept in all other respects will neglect the garage entrance, leaving its raw dirt an offense to the eye and the unadorned building a mere convenience, instead of a real home in which the faithful car may spend its nights.

A long runway is sometimes cemented throughout its entire length and width, colored cement being used to good effect. Often there are two cement tracks, with crushed stone or grass between. If the stone is kept in place, the grass well mowed and green, these are neat in appearance. Real beauty is added, however, when plants or shrubs grow at the sides, while if a tree or a tall shrub can be placed so that the branches will droop over the runway, a garden effect is already secured. The monotony of a long runway may be broken up by a pergola, an arch or a trellis. When painted they are ornamental, and when draped with vines they are a joy.

Many kinds of vines may be used. Of the roses there are ramblers, Cecil Brunner, Reve d'Or; there are honeysuckles of many kinds—nothing more satisfactory over a period of many years, many kinds of jasmine, Bougainvilles in the several colors, Wistaria, any of the trumpet flowers or Solanum. All of these blossom and produce masses of color for a greater

or shorter length of time, while the foliage is always beautiful and satisfying. There is real pleasure in driving into one's runway from the hot sun of summer or the rain of winter under the shelter of a trellised vine, or to see the protecting arms of one's own tree or shrub reaching down towards the car.

The garage may be made lovely by itself with vines, with or without a trellis. Any of those mentioned may be used, and in addition there are Boston Ivy and Woodbine, with their special beauty in the fall, and the evergreen English Ivy or *Ficus Repens*.

Anyone that can have a tree, great or small, to droop over his runway is fortunate. Any tall shrub may be trained to spread its branches abroad and yet avoid brushing the car. A Cotoneaster trained high will spread its graceful limbs throughout the year, and for six months its clusters of vivid red berries brighten the view. Many of the evergreen trees are good—Italian Cypress or Cedar or Arbor Vitae, which have a close habit of growth. *Eugenia* is one of the trees that can be easily trained to slenderness.

A hedge is excellent for almost any length of runway. The evergreens are particularly good, and the various kinds of box, or small blossoming shrubs may be trained into a hedge.

Another delightful thing is to treat the space between the tracks as a flower garden. There is chance for a good deal of choice here. It must be taken into consideration that the plants should be low, in order to avoid being brushed by the car as it passes over, and they must be of the sort that will stay fairly well within the space allotted to them, and it is best to have plants that will blossom a good part of the year. Pansies may be used with joyous results, or dwarf nasturtiums, which make a picturesque splash of color from early summer to late fall. Dwarf phlox, forget-me-not, ageratum, red flax, oxalis, clove pinks, ivy geranium, low begonias, are all good and combinations may be made, with colorful and satisfying effect. In making combinations it is a good thing to choose kinds that will need about the same amount and frequency of watering. In runways of little sun, periwinkle, myrtle or English ivy, with ferns at the sides of the tracks, can be used.

Another thing to be thought of in making a garden between the tracks is that the plants have the same length of life, so that there may not be bare spots when the summer is half over.

Foliage plants and perennials are good. Alter-

nanthera, the little border plant that comes in two colors, dull crimson and greenish yellow, is satisfactory when planted in geometric patterns and is always distinctive in appearance. Other usable varieties are *Gazania*, *Gaillardia* and the humble but generous Wandering Jew. All the mesembryanthemums are available, and are as easy as anything can be, while for a sunny runway nothing could be more attractive than a cactus garden. There are many low growing cacti, both succulents and true cacti, and these can be added to from time to time and the runway garden made a real delight. A whole stretch of Hen and Chickens has a good effect, and when it is in blossom, it has a gently gay appearance that is touching.

These are only a few of a wealth of suggestions.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN, THE BREADTH OF ITS GRASP

In February last, issue of this journal, I discussed *Sutherlandi frutescens*, and *Sesbania punicia*. I made the remark that they were "temperamental," both of the them flowering for two seasons, then seemed to call it a day and quit: die. Two months afterward I received a kindly letter from a reader of the Garden, who is a resident of South Africa. And here is what she says of *Sutherlandi*: "It grows in the sands of the sea shore luxuriantly, though I've seen it do well in the clay soils of the uplands." This word from a reader in the far away country suggested to my mind the title of this article. In comparison to the great majority of garden magazines, it is small indeed, but who dares to say that it is insignificant in the spread of a knowledge of plant life and its culture? Who can estimate its value as a teacher to those who know not how, yet would grow the smiles of God — flowers, with which to adorn the bosom of Mother Earth?

P. D. B.

SHAKESPEARE IN REGENTS PARK

A permanent outdoor theatre, with raised turf stage, gently sloping auditorium, carefully devised acoustics, and microphones and loudspeakers concealed in trees, has now been constructed in the Botanical Gardens as a result of fortunate collaboration between Mr. Sydney Carroll and the Office of Works.

In this exquisite natural setting delighted audiences are now seeing Shakespearean plays.

The experiment in the outdoor theatre is a brilliant success. (Gardening Illustrated)

Under My Seven Eucalyptus Trees

Dear Editor:

Do you think that a story about my small walled garden, beneath eucalyptus trees at Rancho Santa Fe, would interest the worldwide readers of the California Garden magazine? It is a garden which contains many flourishing contradictions of the usual expectancy under such circumstances.

To begin with, ever since the time, some 30 years ago, when the Australian eucalyptus were first introduced into Southern California, there has been a persistent tradition that "nothing could grow well beneath eucalyptus trees." Furthermore, these trees are a known cause of much additional work for the gardener, especially during the late weeks of the summer, when nearly every variety of eucalyptus develops a very disorderly trick of shedding countless dry leaves over the garden. Then as the autumn nights become steadily cooler, these trees begin thrusting off great sheets of the thin bark which has been their protection during the warm weather. And when this same season brings its usual high velocity winds the taller eucalyptus trees prune themselves by throwing down their brittle tops as well as huge long branches heavily laden with their seed pods. The entire garden will then be strewn with dead leaves and twigs of every shape and size.

Six times my own small garden has passed through this annual program beneath our seven eucalyptus trees which were so carefully preserved on this piece of land when the house was built. We patiently rake up the leaves, and love the fragrant smoke of their burning. We save the long shreds of bark, and the branches of seed pods for the fireplace, and enjoy their snapping aroma. Meanwhile the trees have healed their wounds and grown incredibly. Their swaying gracefulness is a never-ceasing joy. Their polished trunks gleam like those of the lovely silver birch, and their shining gray-green treetops blend naturally with our surrounding hills at Rancho Santa Fe, whether these are brown in summer, or clothed with the green of the rainy season.

Six years should be long enough to prove what will grow satisfactorily in a garden of 65x50 feet, along with seven large eucalyptus trees (inside my wall), two more just outside but doubtless reaching inward with their roots for the required moisture they need, two tall

Dracaenas, a 10-foot redwood tree and a 5-year-old Monterey pine.

Now, Mr. Editor, your readers who are true garden experts, landscape architects or professional nurserymen, must not expect to find any further interest in these lines. For this is but the simple story of a simple garden which has flourished because the owner loved her flowers and set out to discover through actual experience how she could keep her trees, and at the same time have something always blossoming throughout the entire year. This garden displays nothing more. In fact even the botanical names of its many plants cannot be supplied without the aid of a catalogue, because this gardener likes the simple names, and sometimes even invents names of her own to describe the velvet colors and haunting fragrance of her flowers.

One of the most interesting things about this walled garden is that it is a secret place. Our little green stucco house in the Civic Center is one of a group of dissimilar houses built in the true Spanish style facing directly upon the street. Trees have now been planted in the parking, but especially in our own case there has been no possibility of even potted plants to indicate any especial interest of the owners in growing things. Hence, whenever visitors are invited into the garden, they are completely surprised to find one hidden away there between its high surrounding walls.

The earliest feature in this small garden began six years ago, was a wide pathway leading (not too directly) from the steps of the porch at the rear, down to the garage door and the rustic service gate. At the right of the pathway stands one of my finest trees, a tall eucalyptus having a trunk about 15 inches in diameter. Here also are several small flower beds separated by narrow curving paths, and a latticed teahouse with a palm roof and shaded by Cecil Brunners, pink Cherokees and Buddleia. A bed of stocks and blue verbena are thriving directly below the tree; freezias, double narcissus, jonquils, sea dahlias, two different groups of rose bushes (not climbers) with four in each group, several plantings of sword ferns close to the wall, one tall nandina, a magnificent cotoneaster against the corner of a garage, a clump of dwarf bamboo, and my prized bed of bronze iris (just springing up), all at-

test their power to thrive in spite of the trees on this side of the garden.

An arrow-shaped grass plot is the central feature of the main part of the garden at the left, with surrounding beds which have been shaped to accommodate the rose garden, and the different plantings of shrubs which were needed closer to the walls. Amongst these are two sturdy *Leptospermum* which are tree-like in size, several *Pittosporums*, a number of *Cotoneasters*, *Buddleias*, clumps of bamboo, a *Hibiscus* with apricot blossoms, seven seedling *Avocados*, one red *Tritoma*, several young century plants, and English Ivy, Cup of Gold and Ornamental Grape vines trailing over the walls.

At present the rose garden is resting, although the impromptu border made of cuttings from my thrifty "Madam Butterfly" promise to become real specimens e'er the spring blossoming time.

Along the wide pathway where it borders the rose bed, this summer a planting of perennial blue salvia, alternating with golden glow and having clumps of gaiardias at one end and tall velvety-blossomed Lions' Tails at the other, made a lovely riot of color.

At the present writing, there are three long sturdy rows of Chinese lilies in blossom. And these, by the way, seem to require less persuasion and encouragement than anything else in the garden. They come up there, every year, and work away during their blossoming time as though they really enjoyed it. Colored freezias, snowdrops, daffodils and two late varieties of white narcissus will be coming along later. The dahlias have just been taken out, and the gladiolus bulbs also. Most of the chrysanthemums have already been cut back.

The winter sweetpeas are thriving in their corner since we forcefully removed the long green worms which have appeared upon each vine tip. The calendulas have been thinned out and transplanted, snapdragons will form one border, the velvet bed is beginning to show bloom, and long lines of tiny green plants near the south wall show where the larkspurs are springing up.

There is but one imperative requirement for a garden such as this beneath eucalyptus trees. It must be watered faithfully. Not sprinkled, but irrigated with orchard-like precision . . . basins around all the shrubs and roses, and the borders profiting by the intervening irrigation streams. We make every drop of water do plenty of work for us. Then, when a new planting is being arranged, the dead soil is taken out and thrown away, and fresh soil

brought in from outside the garden, so that every new plant has its own rich setting, and the borders are taken care of through the heavy fertilization given the garden both spring and autumn. The annuals do best close to the trees where the roots are going deeper, and do not interfere with the small plants.

RUTH R. NELSON,
Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.

A FAMOUS CHRISTMAS TREE or NEW ZEALAND'S CHRISTMAS TREE

By K. O. Sessions

When the yacht *Vilehi* reached New Zealand about Christmas time, 1931, Mrs. Horton was charmed with the beauty of a native tree in full bloom, a glorious red. Unable to secure plants from the local nursery for shipment to her Chula Vista home, she wrote me to import at least a dozen plants. Letters to that local nursery whose card was sent and a money order to another New Zealand nursery brought no replies. An order for seed to Vilmorin & Company of Paris was promptly filled. Letters of inquiry to Golden Gate Park brought two plants. An article in our California Garden by Miss Elizabeth Fairley on New Zealand plants in April, 1931, tells us that this famous Christmas tree, the glory of New Zealand, is *Metrosideros tomentosa*. She says it is probably the most gorgeous of all the many flowering trees native of the island continent and the nearby islands. Further investigation has given the following facts: The flower is like our well-known bottle brush, but its color is a more brilliant red. It makes a tree 30 to 50 feet high but will bloom when only a shrub in size. It withstands the coast winds and ocean's spray and will grow on poor soil.

At Santa Barbara I learned that the City Park has an established plant and I hope to obtain a spray of its blossoms when it blooms.

This tree or shrub should make a fine companion for the poinsettia at the holiday season. *Metrosideros robusta* is already established here and closely resembles the *M. tomentosa* in foliage and habit, but its flower is a scarlet red. The best specimen, now a small tree, is in the garden of Mr. Julius Wangenheim, and a more shrubby plant in the front yard of Mrs. Robert on Coronado, facing Glorietta Bay. The *Metrosideros* and *Callistemons* and *Melaleucas*, all closely related, have bottle brush flowers of various colors, and are growing successfully here.

The *Melaleucas* are more abundant and the

following are conspicuous: *M. armillaris* (white), *decussata* (small lavender), *genistifolia* (for its excellent foliage and small, white blooms), *hypericifolia* (light red), *leucadendron* (the cajuput tree), and *stypheleoides*. The two last varieties have a very interesting bark, very white and like the birch tree peels off in layers. They make very large and handsome trees. The *M. stypheleoides* at the Thomas Hamilton garden is the best specimen in the city. The cajuput tree (*M. leucadendron*) was planted about Havana on marsh lands expecting it would help to allay malaria.

POINSETTIAS

By Bertha M. Thomas

If there is a flower more gorgeous and lovable, well, San Diego has not seen it, and our climate seems to be ideal for it.

A friend was speaking of a ride up the coast last week, and the fact that the poinsettias grew visibly smaller and more scrawny after one reached Oceanside. Last year I obtained some double red ones, which proved quite an attraction. This year I have the pink which I cannot laud since it looks faded, unless highly fertilized and grown in considerable shade. But the white ones (or rather, a cream color) are beautiful and make splendid companions for the red. They are not common but there is no reason why they should not be grown here. They are easily obtained from any grower.

Since San Diego has the distinction of being the one place in the United States where poinsettias develop their best, why can we not make them more a civic asset and plant them everywhere. They will grow anywhere and need no care except water and fertilizer liberally given them beginning with September. If you wish the tall canes and large blooms, cut down in February to one or two feet. If you prefer the branched tree effect, of course, no pruning is required and blooms will be smaller and more in number.

Put in a dozen or more cuttings this spring. They will gladly be given you by any friend. They give their royal color effect at a time when other plants are shy of color. They have everything in their favor, and not a fault.

They love best a southern exposure, against a building or wall, and anything can be planted in front of them for summer blooming. There is not a plant, shrub, or tree which gives you more, for less effort, and I have wished our Planning Commission would require a universal planting in every home garden.

DECEMBER WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO

Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

In common with all places with the Mediterranean type of climate, San Diego County has its rainy season in midwinter, and December is the first of the four rainiest months. Thus it may be said that our winter begins with December. However, the amounts have been exceedingly variable, and have ranged during the month from none to 9.26 inches, with the average in the city of 1.86 inches. Normally there are 6 days with precipitation of measurable amount, but December, 1889, had 19 days. Irrigation is unnecessary, and the first snowfall takes place in the higher elevations.

Nights are cooler, and frosts may be expected, and freezing temperatures are not uncommon in the citrus districts where firing is often necessary to protect the crops. Day temperatures, though, are usually mild and the weather is never too cold for activities in the open. Frequently, the thermometer will record 70 degrees or over in the city, and occasionally 80 degrees or higher is reached, but a minimum below 32 degrees has never been registered.

Rainfall is usually accompanied by strong south to west winds, but gales never occur, and the maximum wind has never exceeded a velocity of 35 miles per hour in the harbor.

December has the lowest relative humidity of any of the months, and the sunshine averages 73% of the possible. On the whole it is a month full of zest with enough change in the weather to act as a stimulant and bring out the best that is in us.

POINSETTIAS

A Fable

Once upon a time, long years ago,
The stars ran crowding, all aglow,
To see a pageant in the sky,
A Christmas pageant passing by.
They followed the angelic train
With shining eyes and bright acclaim;
When the winged cavalcade
Turned toward the earth, they stopped, afraid
To follow on so far below,
And from their skyey esplanade
Threw confetti upon the parade.
Just tiny sparks of scarlet glow.
A brave plant caught some sparklets red
For a starry halo round its head.
Now POINSETTIA, with joyous flame,
Signal: "See, our CHRISTMAS comes again!"

—GRAY GOOSE.

The California Garden

Editor
 Silas B. Osborn
 Associate Editor
 Walter S. Merrill

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

The San Diego Floral Association

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
 P. O. Box 323 San Diego, Cal.

Main Office, San Diego, California

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Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at
 the Post office at Point Loma, California, under the Act
 of March 3, 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized
 by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association.

MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

One Page	\$15.00	Half Page	\$7.50
Quarter Page	3.75	Eighth Page	2.00

Advertising Copy should be in by the 1st of each Month

Subscription to Magazine, \$1.00 per year; Membership
 \$1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined
 \$2.00 per year.

Shopping News Ptg. Co. 215 B Street, San Diego

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Members of the San Diego Floral Association always anticipate a pleasant Christmas party at the December meeting, and they will not be disappointed this year as plans are under way for a fine program on Tuesday the 20th at 7:30 o'clock in the clubrooms in Balboa Park. The speaker of the evening is R. R. McLean, San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner, who will give some interesting information on insect control. The rooms will be decorated with many kinds of berried shrubs and they will be identified by John Morley, superintendent of Balboa Park. After the talks a surprise is in store for each member present. Christmas wreaths and greenery will be offered for sale. Refreshments will be provided by the house committee.

NEWS OF THE MONTH

We have at hand samples of the Christmas greeting cards of the "Save the Redwoods League." Recently the California Conservation Committee of the Garden Club of America offered cash prizes for photographs depicting the beauty and appeal of trees. One of the important prize winners, titled "Snow Blossoms," is to be used exclusively by the League as a Christmas holiday greeting card this season. "Snow Blossoms" is a snow scene of a conifer in the high Sierra laden with clusters of snow resembling blossoms. The cards are unusual in their beauty and their use is designed to "spread the gospel" of trees. They may be obtained from the League's headquarters, 220 California Hall, University of California, Berkeley, at the following prices: 15c each; 25 for \$3.60; 50 for \$7; 100 for \$13.50. Unfortunately this information was too late for the November issue but they still can be obtained for New Year's greetings and for local use for Christmas.

The California Garden Club Federation is now publishing an eight-page monthly magazine called "Golden Gardens." We offer our congratulations and best wishes for the success of this new enterprise. Subscriptions are 50c per year and may be sent to Mrs. S. A. Gulberson Jr., 918 N. Roxbury Drive, Beverly Hills, Calif.

Our own Kate O. Sessions was recently elected to honorary membership in the California Garden Club Federation for outstanding contributions to California gardens. Two others, Charles Francis Saunders of Pasadena, noted horticultural writer, and the dean of California park executives, John McLaren of Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, were also elected.

The California Garden wishes its many loyal subscribers best wishes for the merriest of Yuletides and may the New Year, 1933, bring you finer gardens and many more gardening friends. For who would deny that the greatest dividend one receives from gardening is an ever increasing accumulation of kindred friends, for this is the foundation of society and society is civilization.

NEW MEMBERS FOR DECEMBER

Golden Garden Magazine, So. Pasadena.
 Los Angeles Public Library.

Complete files of the "California Garden" may be obtained from the secretary at reasonable prices.

REPORT OF NOVEMBER MEETING

When the announcement is made that Miss Kate Sessions is to be the speaker for the Floral Association, the house committee has to get out extra chairs for the many eager listeners who come to hear her. Miss Sessions spoke to the November meeting about her recent trip north where she visited the Huntington gardens in Pasadena, this Orpet succulent gardens and other rock gardens in Santa Barbara, and attended the meeting of the Federation of Garden Clubs annual meeting in San Luis Obispo. She had not visited the Huntington gardens for three years and was amazed at the progress in the collection of rare specimens in this well nigh perfect garden. She spoke of the wise planting of beautiful trees and emphasized her constant plea that trees be not crowded in arrangement. She brought an invitation for the Floral Association to visit the gardens in a body and plans are being made for a trip up and back some day in the Spring when, Mr. Hertrih, the genial superintendent, has agreed to allow the members to see the gardens when the general public is not present. It is gratifying to know that these world famous gardens are endowed with a fund that will prevent them being abandoned as other fine gardens have been fated in the past.

As usual Miss Sessions added a spicy touch to her entertainment by awarding a fine Montezuma Cypress to the holder of the lucky number, thus carrying on her good work of beautifying her loved community. Speaking of her efforts in that line let us remind every one to visit the Aloe and Agave garden that is snuggling into an appearance of having flourished there for a long time. As a patron of the street cars it is my good fortune to hear the comments of passengers as they get a fine view of the gardens from the cars. I wonder if Miss Sessions really planned on giving the beautiful perspective to the street car line. Too bad we can't have some way of informing the passengers about the purpose of the garden as one hears some strange and astonishing surmises as to what it is. Those who ride in automobiles should take a No. 11 or 7 car some day and get a real view of this most interesting feature in the park. Let us hope that Miss Sessions can plan more beautifying spots for San Diego and see that they materialize.

Instead of a report this article has grown to an essay but we all enjoyed Kate Sessions in her program for the San Diego Floral Association on Tuesday night, November 15. C. B. T.

OUR NATIVE CHERRY

A recent description of the George W. Marston garden, published in the San Diego Union, spoke of the hedge on the Seventh Street side as the Catalina cherry. It is the native local wild bush cherry, *Prunus ilicifolia*, with the holly or *Ilex* leaf. It is a compact grower and makes a superior shrub or hedge. The plants at the Marston garden were set out as a row and not to be grown as a close, compact hedge and it is a success.

The Catalina cherry, a native of Catalina Island, off the Los Angeles coast, is *Prunus integrifolia* and makes a large tree 30 to 50 feet in height. It is an evergreen with handsome foliage and the cherries are very dark and attractive and palatable — but mostly pit. There are possibilities of improvement in its fruit and worthy of experimentation and possible hybridization.

K. O. SESSIONS.

REPORT OF ANNUAL CARD PARTY

The annual card party given by the house committee in November was a huge success. Twenty-five tables of bridge were present and the beauty of the club rooms decorated with cool bamboo and bright rose cyclamen caused the guests to express their delight with enthusiasm. Mrs. Greer, president, was assisted in the appointments by the Mesdames, Robert Morrison, Mary E. Ward, John Nuttall, and the Misses Etta Schweider, Alice Halliday and Laura Brewster. Delicious refreshments were served and pots of blooming cyclamen were awarded to the winners at each table. This annual event is one always anticipated with great pleasure.

C. B. T.

CORRECTION

The list of varieties of Agaves and Aloes listed in the November issue as being wanted for the K. D. Sessions Agave and Aloe Garden in Balboa Park are those now growing there. The article should have read any varieties other than those listed are wanted.

Any mesembryanthemum varieties other than those listed on the editorial page of the November issue are wanted.

Aloe plicatilis should have been *plicatillis*.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Walmsley have donated six Aloes and ten mesembryanthemums.

Hillhouse, 501 24th Street,
Santa Monica, Calif.
November 23rd, 1932.

The California Garden
San Diego, California
Attention: Silas B. Osborn, Editor
Dear Mr. Osborn:

Herewith I am sending you a very brief article on a few new shrubs. I promised to do this for a long time.

May I take this opportunity of complimenting you on the very fine periodical you are getting out. It is really the best thing of its kind we have ever had in California. I am strongly of the opinion, however, that the subscription ought to be more than \$1 a year.

I think any publication which possesses my friend, Mr. Peter D. Barnhart, as one of its contributors is fortunate. If California possessed more men like Mr. Barnhart, with his knowledge, his zeal and his enthusiasm for plants, we would all of us to that extent be happier and learn more.

I have so high an admiration for him and I have so much respect for his knowledge and experience that I hesitate to question any statement contained in one of his articles, but I believe that he will agree with me when I mention that in his description of beautiful *Beaumontia grandiflora* he was incorrect in describing the plant's native habitat as being Japan. It is a native of Nepal, India.

With me it blooms almost constantly on the top of a large lath house. There are comparatively few days in the year on which blooms cannot be found on the plant and when it is in full bloom there are literally hundreds of flowers. It is a very clean, vigorous grower and is not afflicted with pests and should be much more generally planted than it is.

The tree which Mr. Barnhart describes as "Eriodendron anfractuosum" I know as *Chorisia speciosa*, a native of South America. As Mr. Barnhart remarks the tree in the grounds of Bel Air is a wonderful sight when it is in full bloom. The deep, alluvial soil in which it is growing is very largely responsible for the growth and condition of the tree. The old tree growing in the grounds of the Soldiers' Home in Sawtelle is rapidly approaching dissolution. My tree is about 12 years old from seed and so far has not shown any bloom.

With every wish for your continued success and the continuation of your magazine which supplies such a needed want, I am

Faithfully yours,
HUGH EVANS.

RARE SHRUBS

HIBBERTIA VOLUBILIS

(Dilleniaceae) Habitat Queensland.

An evergreen climbing shrub with large yellow salver shaped flowers, very glossy green foliage. A beautiful thing for a sunny situation. Very profuse bloomer which would create attention anywhere.

LUCULIA GRATISSIMA

(Rubiaceae) Habitat Himalaya Mountains.

A shrub which in my garden stands about nine feet high, about five feet through. In the autumn and winter is covered with large panicles of salver shaped flowers with a faint blush tinge, very fragrant. Beautiful thing for picking. The shrub is evergreen and prefers a cool situation shaded from hot sunshine.

BAUHINIA RACEMOSA

(Leguminosae) Habitat China.

A very strong rampant growing, climbing shrub, throwing out tremendous canes, evergreen, foliage light green, covered during the summer with large trusses of the flowers peculiar to this genus, white petals with bright red stamens. Very fragrant. This is entirely new, the plant growing on my lath house is the only one which I have any knowledge of. It is a very fine introduction and merits a place in every garden which has room for it.

RONDELETIA CORDATA

(Rubiaceae) Habitat Tropical America.

Strong growing evergreen shrub with large trusses of fleshy pink flowers with yellow throat. This plant likes a rich soil and is very impatient of drought and does better with some shade.

There is another species, *Rondeletia Amoena* with rather softer foliage, flowers very similar to preceding.

Rondeletia speciosa is a very dwarf shrub with bright orange and scarlet flowers.

CROTALARIA AGATAFLORA

(Leguminosae) Habitat East Africa.

Strong growing shrub, light green foliage, long racimes of yellow pea shaped flowers, rather resembling a row of little yellow birds hanging on a bough. The flowering stalks are often three feet in length. The shrub in full bloom in a sunny situation is worth going a long way to see.

GOSSYPIUM STURTII

(Malvaceae) Habitat Central and Western Australia.

A medium size evergreen shrub, purple flower with dark center somewhat resembling some of the Althaeas. This is a very pretty and floriferous plant and quite attractive when in bloom. Its native habitat would indicate, and I believe this to be the case, that it prefers a deep, sandy soil, full sun.

OXERA PULCHELLA

(Verbenaceae) Habitat New Caledonia.

An evergreen climbing or twining shrub, very handsome dark green foliage with large drooping clusters of trumpet shaped ivory white flowers, 15 to 20 in a cluster, the individual flowers being about two inches long. This is a very beautiful climber, seems to do equally well in sun or shade, is a vigorous grower, free from insect pests and merits a place in every garden.

ABELIA SCHUMANNII

(Caprifoliaceae) Habitat China.

Resembling in habit our common *Abelia grandiflora*, with the exception that the shrub is not such a strong grower and the flowers are a rosy pink mauve with a yellow throat. The shrub in my opinion does better with some shade and an abundance of water. It does not take kindly to drought.

HIBISCUS HETEROPHYLLUS

(Malvaceae) Habitat Australia.

A tall, strong growing evergreen shrub with handsome cut foliage and large cup shaped flowers, white petals with a dark maroon center, a generous and constant bloomer, prefers full sunshine and plenty of water.

LEUCOPHYLLUM TEXANUM

(Scrophulariaceae) Habitat Texas and New Mexico.

An evergreen medium size shrub, small, neat gray-green foliage with very beautiful mauve flowers resembling *Mimulus* in shape, only blooms well in a hot, sunny situation, probably prefers a sandy soil. This shrub is very infrequently seen and should be much more widely planted than it is in situations to which it is adapted.

HUGH EVANS.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In a recent article by Mr. Barnhart the statement appeared that the Coolidge Rare Plant Gardens was the only establishment in this part of the state specializing in rare plants. In deference to Hugh Evans it should be stated that the exigencies of the times, a year ago, induced him to commercialize his unusual botanic garden of rare plants at Santa Monica.

The Garden

By Walter Birch

As rose planting time is almost upon us again, I think it is apropos just now, to give a few excerpts from a reliable source, regarding the planting and general care for the novice, who will find the cuts illustrating the proper way to prune a rose bush, quite helpful. The directions for watering or application of same will, of course, depend somewhat on the character of the soil in the particular garden treated.

(See directions for "Preparation of Soil."—"Planting."—"Watering and Cultivation."—"Mulching."—"Diseases and Pests." "Pruning.")

PREPARATION OF SOIL—To obtain the best results with roses, the most important part is the preparation of the soil. This should be spaded to a depth of 18 inches, well pulverized and enriched to about one-fifth of its bulk with the well-rotted barnyard manure. Care should be taken to thoroughly mix the fertilizer with the soil before any planting is done. If barnyard manure is not available use a weedless finely pulverized sheep manure, at the rate of one shovelful to the bush, mixing thoroughly with the soil.

PLANTING—Dig holes at least 15 inches deep and wide enough to receive roots without cramping. Place plants in an upright position, working the soil around the roots a little at a time, at the same time treading firmly with the foot. If ground is very wet do not tread too much. The depth the plants should be planted is about an inch deeper than they were planted in the nursery row. This can be ascertained by the color of the bark, which will be considerably darker. Leave a shallow depression around each plant and fill with water as soon as planted and again after water has seeped away. It will not be necessary to shade them unless the sun gets very hot. Remember, that roses do best in the full sun, and that they require plenty of water and cultivation in the growing season. Three feet apart is a good distance to plant, but this can be varied either way to suit conditions.

WATERING AND CULTIVATION—During the growing season roses require a liberal supply of water and should be cultivated regularly

through the summer months unless a good mulch is provided.

A thorough irrigation every week, soaking the soil to a depth of 18 inches or 2 feet, is usually sufficient. Be sure, however, that the water penetrates to the required depth. Do not "sprinkle" and think you are watering.

MULCHING—In order to avoid the frequent cultivation necessary during the summer



In pruning climbers, cut away all old flowering wood, but do not cut back main stems.

months, many rose growers resort to mulching, which has been found entirely satisfactory. A mulch consisting of about 3 inches of coarse stable manure is often used in commercial rose fields, but does not add to the appearance of the beds in a rose garden. We recommend for this purpose a layer about 2 inches thick of HORTICULTURAL PEA T MULL. This material is finely shredded and of a neutral brown color; presenting a very neat appearance. It has a certain food value, keeps down weeds, and through slow fermentation promotes a beneficial condition in the soil. It is inexpensive and an ideal soil builder with many uses in the flower garden.

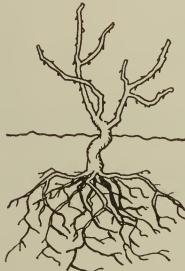
APHIS OR GREEN FLY—A small sucking insect that gathers on the tips of growth and buds. This can be easily exterminated by the use of Black Leaf 40.



Always make a clean cut just a little above a strong bud.

NON-POISONOUS INSECTICIDES—For use in the garden and about the home, a non-poisonous insecticide is often preferred — we recommend EVERGREEN. The actual killing ingredient is pyrethrum, which, while absolutely fatal to almost all insects, is perfectly harmless to humans, animals or plants—this spray offers an effective general control for insect pests on roses and flowers.

BLACK SPOT—A fungus disease appearing on the leaf, which eventually causes it to turn yellow and fall off. This can be checked by spraying with Bordeaux Mixture.



Bush properly planted, covered just above where plant was budded and roots spread out in natural position.

MILDEW—This disease attacks the leaves and stems, causing a whitish crinkly condition. Lack of sunshine or too much overhead watering are the chief causes. Spraying entire plant with FUNG-TROGEN immediately after it appears will check it readily. Sulphur dusted on in the morning when the foliage is somewhat damp is commonly used.

PRUNING—We have prepared a few sketches which will help to illustrate the most important process of successful pruning, a practice which is seldom thoroughly understood or properly carried out by the amateur.

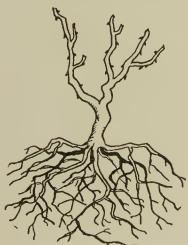
In California the best time to prune roses is in January. At this time roses are as dormant as we can hope to see them in this climate.

The aim in pruning should be to eliminate all undesirable growth and to reduce the remaining branches that a well-balanced, thrifty plant will result when renewed growth begins.

Cut away entirely all weak growth and all branches on which the bark shows signs of disease (cracks, discoloration, etc.). Then prune back the remaining strong and healthy branches about one-third or even one-half their original height, according to the type or variety.

In pruning use a sharp pair of shears or a keen-edged knife and make a clean, slightly sloping cut just above a good, strong eye. Choose one pointing outward from the center; this will help to build an open, well-rounded bush.

Rose bush, in dormant condition, before pruning.



Rose bush properly pruned, all weak and superfluous growth cut away and remaining wood cut back.

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Amongst the novelties, we recommend Autumn, burnt orange, streaked red, Caledonia, lemon-tinted changing to white, perfumed, Gloria Mundi, baby rose, brilliant orange scarlet, Golden Dawn, lemon yellow, Impress, salmon cerise with gold. Lady Forteviot, bright golden yellow, flushed with cardinal red, Mrs. G. A. Van Rossem, striking blend of dark orange and apricot on golden yellow, Olympiad, President Hoover, Talisman and others too numerous to mention.

TAGATES LUCIDA

This pretty little flowering shrub came under my observation this summer for the first time. It is a true Marigold as the seed shows it to be. The flowers are small, borne in terminal corymbs. They are golden yellow, each flower with three petals. It is a pretty little evergreen, flowering the latter part of the summer. It must have water in abundance during the flowering period, and, will I insult the intelligence of the reader if I say food, too?

In very truth there are gardeners, both professional and amateur who seem to think that luxuriant plants may be grown on wind and water.

P. D. B.

A FLOWER SHOW

This is not ancient history, neither is it a flight of fancy of the writer. It is a true story of a flower show given by the Women's Improvement Club, of Corona, Calif., November 3rd and 4th in their clubhouse. It was a free show. When it comes to staging flower shows, women are better managers than men, every time. It was unique in many ways. It was not a big show as flower shows go, but it was a good show just the same. It was artistic in arrangement, instructive in program, and in one particular different from any other I have ever attended. It was open to the public, only afternoons and evenings. The afternoon of the first day Mrs. Frank Harrington, of East San Gabriel, who has a botanic garden of her own, gave an interesting talk on plant life as it may be grown in this Southland. The afternoon of the second day, Mrs. Leonard B. Slosson, president of the State Garden Club Federation, who is also business editor of the new publication of the Federation, *Golden Gardens*, gave us a talk on "Garden Clubs," and of her work in that field of human endeavor. One feature of the show was staged by boys, in which they showed the keenest interest. Now boys are not thought of as sentimental, yet those lads were enthusiastic over their exhibits. If greater interest were taken by parents of boys in the expenditures of their energies there would be fewer of them go wrong.

There is a committee of the club known as the City Beautification Committee, whose duties are to visit the yards, both back and front, and the gardens of the city during the summer and to report to the club the last evening of the show as to which ones were best kept, and worthy of award. This was the third such event in the history of the club. Mrs. Mueller presided during the program when the awards were made. And how graciously she did it, and that too, with a smile that was charming. Glen Harper, president of the Chamber of Commerce, handed out the prizes, which, in the aggregate, amounted to more than \$225. These prizes were not in cash, but in merchandise given by the business firms of the city. Here was a fine demonstration of co-operation in a scheme to make a CITY BEAUTIFUL. And it works, believe me when I say it works. Harper was so calm, so deliberate in his work that the company was electrified by the eager, anxious expectation as to who would win first prize. Times without number I have been in assemblages where enthusiasm ran high, and applause frequent, but in this case quiet reigned

supreme. So intense was it that it was positively thrilling. It gripped the heart, it stirred emotions to their depth, it was soul-satisfying. There are scenes and incidents in life so charming, so exquisitely beautiful that they cannot be told in words. This was one such to the writer of this story.

PETER D. BARNHART.

THE GARDENER'S CHAPBOOK

Edited by E. H. M. Cox

(Chatto & Windus, London, 1931; 7s. 6d.)

This is a well mixed book of garden piccalilly, characteristically British in seasoning and flavor, but containing morsels to suit the widest variety of horticultural taste. It is pervaded by a quaintness pertinent to the 18th century rather more than to the 20th, and is most entertaining to have at one's elbow to dip into now and then. The first and one of the largest sections of the book is devoted to an anthology selected rather unevenly from the poetry and prose of many authors. Following this we find a picturesque chapter on herbs and simples, a very fine one on "forgotten plants," a good many of which we are pleased to discover have been by no means forgotten by Californians, and another good one on perfumes and pot-pourri. There is a section on the uses of fruit, and one on vegetables and salads, in which we are pleasantly surprised to find included a recommendation for the use of "avocado or alligator pear," both as a simple salad and with lobster. A selection of garden proverbs, a long table of English and Latin names of plants, and a garden calendar full of pithy comments, give the final garnish. It is a pleasant book, though we confess that its pages are on occasions somewhat bibulously inclined.

S. S. B.

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WATER POOLS

By Bertha M. Thomas

I am receiving many requests as to when to clean the water pool and reset the lilies; and there is no better time than *now*. It should be done certainly before February since fish sometimes are spawning by that time.

One object in doing the work is that it is usually some warmer for outside work this month than it will be in January and I have found that if lilies are divided and reset this month they get an earlier start for next summer's growth, which is surely an object, since the cool nights of fall come so quickly to stop the blooming.

If you wish large blooms be generous with fertilizer, also with root room for the plants, but your lilies will bloom quicker when root-bound, like most plants.

The Water Hawthorn, our only winter blooming aquatic, is now coming out full. They are so peculiar, so lovely, so fragrant, they are almost an essential in a water pool when all their companions are asleep and the pool otherwise would look bare.

Please remember to be good to the mother fish, she needs it if her next summer family is to be healthy and strong. Give her small pieces of angle worms once a week, nature made them especially as proper diet for fish, since they keep not only in good health but also will deepen the red color if fed on angle worms alone. Japanese fantails seem to require them as food even more than the straight tail fish since the short body easily congests with any food which has not the meaty content.

TREES HAVE "SYSTEM" FOR SCATTERING SEED

Trees are far from haphazard in reseeding forest land, says the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture. As a rule seeds liberated from a tree at the same instant are scattered in a straight line to leeward of the trees.

If all seeds produced by a tree were to be released at one time this would result in an undesirable concentration of seeds in a limited area and a total lack of seeds in other areas. Nature has guarded against any such wasteful process. A pine cone, for example, opens one scale at a time. As the scale opens the two seeds which were borne under it drop out.

Ordinarily several days elapse between the escape of the first and last seeds from any one cone. Furthermore the cones on different parts of the same tree do not all open at the same time. One tree may be casting seed for several weeks. Variations in direction and velocity of the wind during this period result in widespread scattering of the seeds.

PRUNING WISTERIA

Mrs. Herbert S. Evans
1506 Plumosa Way
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Madam:

Regarding your wisteria and its fertilization. We do not believe that fertilization has a great deal to do with the flowering of the vine. If the plant is showing good health and is quite luxuriant in its growth, probably it is putting all its energy into growth rather than bloom and fertilization would not correct this.

We have found that heavy pruning does more to control their flowering than fertilization.

There are two methods of pruning, one at the dormant state and the other when the plant is making growth. During the dormant state you remove the excess wood, the dead wood and shorten up some of the longer shoots, which does not remove very much of the flowering wood. Nearly all the flowers are borne on short spurs and the bud containing the flower is a rounder, heavier bud than the leaf bud. A little experience makes them easily distinguishable and your pruning can be controlled accordingly.

The summer pruning or pruning during the growing period is a much more difficult subject to explain. The new shoots are shortened two or three times during the summer months with the result that a great many flowering spurs are developed as the new shoots branch.

Mr. Rust has a vine on his barn at his residence that has not bloomed for 10 or 12 years and this treatment was used with the result that this year he estimates he has two or three thousand spikes of flowers. He cut these new shoots back about one-half of their growth after they were about one foot long and then as new ones came he repeated the procedure, however, we have been hesitant about recommending this too strongly for fear someone will get over-ambitious and ruin some choice vine.

JOHN S. VOSBURG.

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